

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 23140 171231Z

44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 CU-02 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

OC-06 CCO-00 /067 W

----- 020794

O R 171209Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2186

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 23140

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT'S RETURN

REF: BANGKOK 22999

1. BANGKOK IS RIFE WITH RUMORS ABOUT THE RETURN OF FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED REPORTS THAT HE HAD SECRETLY RETURNED BUT THE PREPONDERANCE OF OPINION AMONG THE EMBASSY'S CONTACTS IS THAT HE DID IN FACT RETURN FROM EXILE ON AUGUST 15 AND IS NOW IN HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THAILAND. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED THE POLICE AND THE MILITARY TO DETERMINE US WHEREABOUTS, BUT TO DATE HAS MET WITH NO SUCCESS. ONE RECURRENT RUMOR HAS HIM "HOLED UP" AT THE SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AT LOPBURI, BUT THIS, TOO, IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 23140 171231Z

UNCONFIRMED.

2. THE STUDENTS HAVE REACTED AS EXPECTED BY HOLDING A MASS RALLY AT SANAM LUANG WHICH BEGAN AT 1600 HOURS ON AUGUST 17. AN EMBASSY POLITICAL ASSISTANT ON THE SCENE ESTIMATED THE CROWD AT 1800 HOURS AT ABOUT 10,000. SPEAKERS AT THE RALLY HAVE ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALLOWING PRAPHAT'S RETURN. THEY SAID THAT HIS RETURN PAVED THE WAY FOR THE RETURN OF A DICTATORSHIP WHICH THEY WILL RESIST. THE REST OF THE CITY REMAINS CALM AND THERE IS NO POLICE OR MILITARY ALER.

3. COMMENTS: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE RTG IS QUITE ANXIOUS TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRAPHAT'S RETURN. REASONS FOR HIS RETURN REMAIN UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME. THE ONLY FACT WHICH IS CLEAR IS THAT THE LONGER HE REMAINS IN THAILAND, THE GREATER THE PROBLEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, EXILES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO23140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760315-0451
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760848/aaaabpgz.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 22999
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT'S RETURN
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH, (PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006